

REMARKS

Claims 1, 20, 32-34 and 40-47 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 48-84 have been added and therefore are pending in the present application. Claims 48-84 are supported by claims 1-47.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

I. **The Objection to the Specification**

The Office objected to the specification because it does not contain any sequence identifiers for the sequences disclosed in the figure. This objection is respectfully traversed.

The sequence identifiers for the sequences disclosed in the figure are provided at page 10, lines 9-18 of the specification. Applicants therefore submit that this objection has been overcome.

II. **The Rejection of Claims 1, 20, 32-34 and 44-47 under 35 U.S.C. 112**

Claims 1, 20, 32-34 and 44-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

However, in order to advance prosecution, claims 1-47 have been rewritten as claims 48-84 to address this rejection. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application on the cancelled subject matter.

III. **The Rejection of Claims 1, 20, 32-34 and 44-47 under 35 U.S.C. 112**

Claims 1, 20, 32-34 and 44-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for the full scope of the claims. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

However, in order to advance prosecution, claims 1-47 have been rewritten as claims 48-84 to address this rejection. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application on the cancelled subject matter.

IV. The Rejection of Claims 1, 20 and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 20 and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Rebrikov et al. (*Journal of Protein Science*, Vol. 18, pp. 21-25 (1999)). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

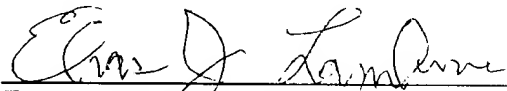
The Rebrikov et al. reference is said to disclose a protease that has an amino acid sequence that shares 96.3% identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12.

However, Rebrikov et al. do not disclose the proteases claimed herein. Applicants therefore submit that this rejection has been overcome.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,



Elias J. Lambiris, Reg. No. 33,728
Novozymes North America, Inc.
500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600
New York, NY 10110
(212) 840-0097

Date: December 3, 2002